

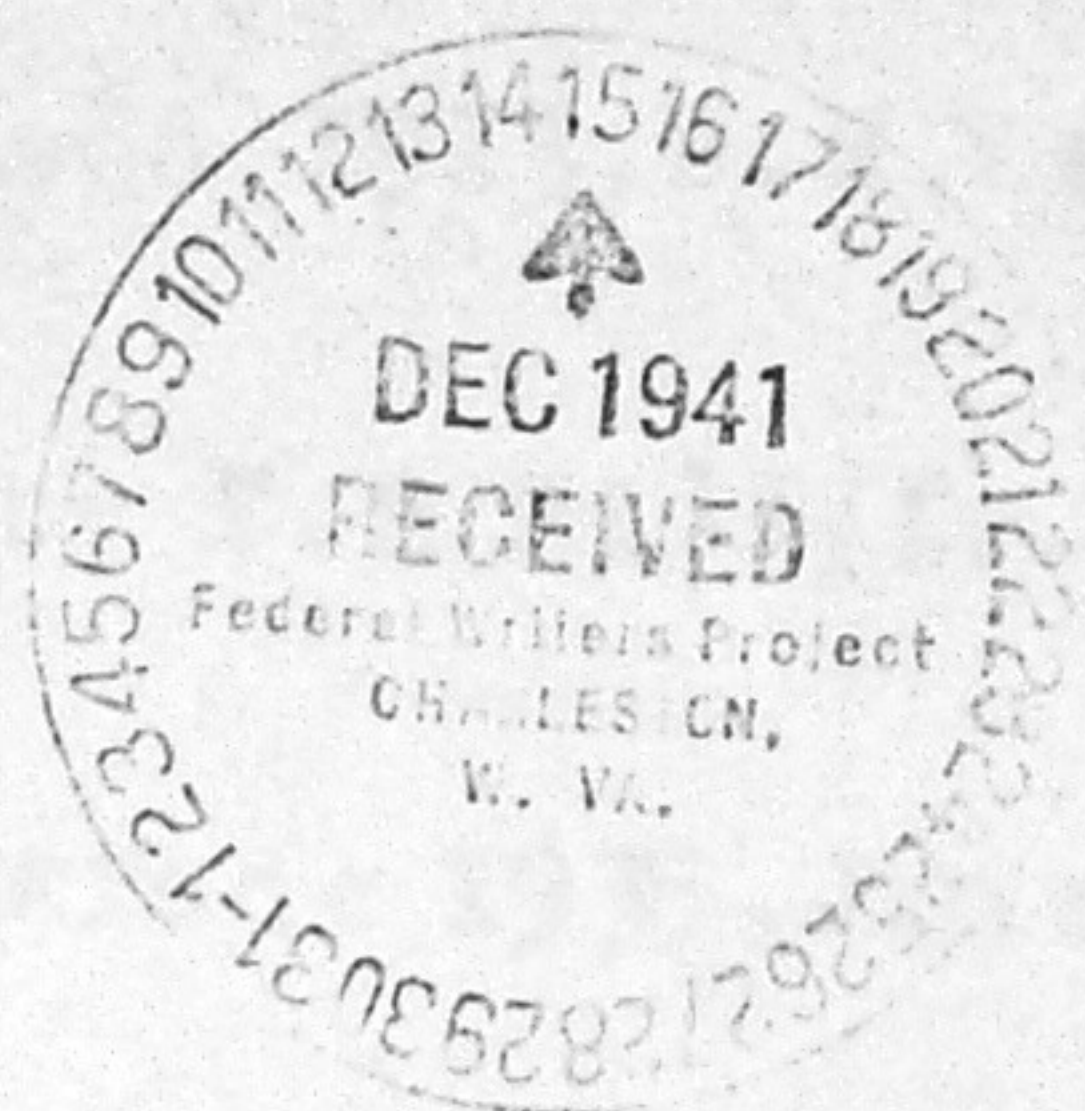
West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County. # 1
Pocahontas County has been represented in the Legislature by the
following men Benoni Griffin 1863-64 Jacob McCarty 1867, Samuel Gibson 18-
69, Nathan G. Barlow 1870, John M. Lightner 1872, William J. Wooddell 1873-75,
George W. Siple 1877, George H. Moffett 1879-81, Henry A. Yeager 1883-87, I. B.
Moore 1891-96, M. J. McNeel 1897. Dr. J. P. Moomau 1893-95-1903, J. W. Price 1905,
Davis L. Barlow 1907, L. M. McClintic 1901, A. D. Williams 1909, 1911-23 by J. A.
McLaughlin, George W. Wilson 1913, B. M. Yeager 1915-17, Harry Blackhurst 1919,
E. N. Moore 1921, 1925-33 by F. R. Hill, Dr. George F. Hull 1927-29. William C. Ga-
rdner 1931, Stanley J. Rexrode 1935, June McElwee from 1937 to 41.

In the state senate Pocahontas County has been represented by the
following men Samuel Young 1863-64-67-70, William McNeel 1881-83, N. C. McN-
dill 1897-99, Fred C. Allen 1937-41, the time in between these dates we were
served by men from some other county laying within the bounds of our dist-
rict but as the dates will confirm Pocahontas has only had the honor of el-
ecting four men to the state senate up to the present time.

Pocahontas County has the honor and distinction of having produced
one man that was elected to the House of Delegates that was chosen Speaker
of the House in our lower branch of representatives he being George H. Moff-
ett and some of the same blood ~~XXXX~~ as the Moffetts that served as Clerk of
our county Court in our first county government.

After the war the cost of our county government gradually rose to a high figure for 1870 it took \$ 4,981.00 in 1871 \$ 5,389.00 and 1872 \$ 4,444.00 to meet this ever rising cost meant more work for our county officials responsible for our county government. Much of the money spent by the county in the 18th. century was spent on wolf and fox scalps as this being a mountainous and wooded section these animals had many dens in these they raised their young and preyed on the stock and poultry of our pioneer farmers and just about cleaned them out until a bounty was put on them and then the livestock industry began to grow and today the livestock industry is the leading industry of Pocahontas County and we are very thankful to these old gentlemen that put the bounty on these varments that were so detrimental to what later grew to be our leading industry. These bounties were paid out of county funds but authorized by our county courts and boards of supervisors. It was in 1870 that a malady struck many flocks of sheep in Union Township and the sheep raisers and producers of the county went to the board of Supervisors and had a ban put on the movement of sheep from that section and had all sick and dead animals burned to check the spread of this disease. No sheep were allowed moved out of this area until 1871.

At an election held in 1872 we got some new faces in our county officials as William Curry was elected Circuit Clerk, William L. McNeel

Sheriff of Pocahontas County, O.A. Stoffer Commonwealth attorney, W.F. Arbogast Assessor, William H. Overholt surveyor of lands, and our circuit judge was R.F. Dennis. The election of 1870 was as follows Sheriff S.L. Gibson, Clerk of Circuit Court and recorder Robert T. Gay, Pros. Attorney William Rucker, Surveyor George Baxter, Assessor William E. Johnson, and N.G. Barlow elected clerk of the board of supervisors for Pocahontas County with Peter L. Curry serving also as clerk to that body for quite sometime. C.J. Stulting having been elected superintendent of Schools of the county.

Many of the old wooden gates that swung across our county roads during the 18th century were authorized by our County Courts and the Boards of Supervisors but these gates having served their purpose in their day were gradually done away with until today the only gates to be found within the borders of the county are on our less used secondary roads. The county officials, having seen the mistake of having these gates across our highways have had them done away with to a very great degree until today with the automobile as the usual mode of travel can travel in all parts of our county without meeting up with these obstacles (the old wooden gate). And by so doing our travel has been increased the distance shortened and contact made much easier all because our county officials had these gates done away with.